GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:555
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2007
NATIONAL APEX COMMITTEE FOR COMBATING CONTAMINATED WATER
Nandy Shri Amitava

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any National Database has been formed on various pollutants in drinking water resulting in toxicity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formed a National Apex Committee in order to develop policies and implement long term strategies to combat contaminated water;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government plans to establish international collaboration with UNICEF, WHO, UNDP in order to develop National Programme to address such public hazards; and

(f) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) & (b) The number of water quality affected habitations in the country as reported by State Governments in their Bharat Nirman Action Plans is 1,95,813 as on 01.04.2006. State-wise details are given in the Annex-I.

(c) & (d) A National Rural Drinking Water Quality Advisory Committee was constituted to advise the Department of Drinking Water Supply for planning and supervising the National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme and for providing suggestions for implementation of Sub-Mission Programme for tackling water quality problems.

(e) & (f) Policy formulation and development of National Programme for assisting the State Governments for drinking water supply including addressing drinking water quality problems is the mandate of Government of India. As the National goals for the 10th Five Year Plan for water supply sector aim at achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which is part of the global goals envisaged by UNICEF for itself. UNICEF works with Government of India as per mutually agreed Master Plan of Operation. UNICEF and WHO are extending cooperation for facilitating reform process in States, rendering technical expertise for community participation and dissemination of policy and plans to the State Governments and community at large for water quality monitoring and surveillance programme.